

## DANCING MASTERS LAUD METHODISTS WHO LET THEM JOIN

Convention Sees Return to  
Favor of Old, Digni-  
fied Waltz.

The International Dancing Masters' Convention in session at the Hotel Commodore today adopted unanimously a set of resolutions commending the Methodist Lay Conference of last spring for its statement that dancing masters and other amusement providers are not barred from membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church; commending J. Henry Smythe Jr. of this city for his efforts to get the church to discard its ancient blue laws, and the Church Advertising Department of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World for urging church liberality as to healthful amusements.

One of the resolutions thanked the great body of the church for evidence of a happier Christian spirit and urged the Epworth Leagues to "spread this progressive doctrine."

The old waltz, with its decorous, dreamy sway, will soon be with us again. Tradition will reverse itself, and the new order will give way to the old. Grandma and grandpa, on attending a dance, will be able to recognize the steps which were current during and after their courtship.

That is the dictum of the American National Association of Masters of Dancing, which is also holding its convention this week at the Commodore, and whose members will in the fall go far and wide and tell the youngsters and grown-ups what will be the proper thing to do during the season.

The 200 delegates, who come from all parts of the country, admit that the character of the coming popular dance is a problem. Most of them say they never received educational instruction to legislate or other forms of censorship.

All claim that the waltz is coming into its own again. Listen to Thomas McDougall of Pittsburgh, for instance, a former president of the association, who has just come up from Miami Beach, where society rules the dance-floor.

"Instead of one waltz an evening, which no one danced, the dancers now demand a waltz every third dance. In my school in Pittsburgh, which is one of the largest in the country, they are more requests for the waltz than ever before. In London, Paris and Oxford, all of which I visited recently, every one was talking about the waltz and its renewed popularity. They all agreed with me when I spoke of the need of an international dance, which the American in a foreign country could essay without embarrassment."

The west ballroom of the hotel yesterday was reminiscent of the dancing school. All the delegates who had new ideas were told that they might advance them for the approval of the other members. The men formed on one side, with the ladies on the other. Then there came the "one-two-three-four" of happy memory for a few moments, and then the "Take partners." The men and ladies forthwith "tried out" the novelty presented.

This procedure will be followed throughout the week, at the end of which the dances for the season will be classified and either rejected or stamped with approval. The successful steps, if there are any, will be the standard of the country next winter.

Roderick C. Clark, who is serving his second term as President of the association, is a New Yorker. He came from Aberdeen, Scotland, about thirty years ago, and no one was surprised when he announced that the Highland fling was the last year when one wants grace and physical activity. Although he conducts many classes at which the "straight" dances are alone taught, he specializes in national dances for parents and entertainments. He is also President of

## Some of the Dancing Masters of the Nation Who Would Restore Rhythmic Dignity and Decency



OTTO F. C. HEINEMANN OF BOSTON, MASS.

MRS. J. H. MEYER - DALLAS, TEXAS - "DEAN OF WOMEN"

LOUIS KRETLOW - CHICAGO, ILL. - ONE OF THREE LIVING CHARTER MEMBERS

FENTON BOTT - DAYTON, OHIO - NATIONAL DIRECTOR

EX-PRES. F. W. KEHL - MADISON, WIS.

PRESIDENT RODERICK C. GRANT - N.Y. - HIGHLAND FLING EXPERT

OTTO F. C. HEINEMANN, who hails from Boston, has likewise noted an improvement in public dancing, but believes that there is plenty of room for further improvement.

"The time is ripe for a change in dances," he declared. "People are tired of the fox-trot, although they do not realize it. All they need is guidance in the right direction, and they will avidly seize dances which last year were regarded as out of date. In England, France and Germany an effort has been made to bring back the tango. It was un-

impetive. "The fraternity realizes that it must come," he asserted, "else there will be legislation which will seem despotic. At the summer pavilion which I own I have noticed an improvement of at least 200 per cent. in the dancing, all within the past eight months, due to the efforts of the

civic authorities and the dancing masters themselves."

Fenton Bott, who read all the announcements from the platform, comes from Dayton, O. He is an ex-President and is now National Director of Dance Reform.

"It has been largely through our propaganda," he said, "that the shimmy, toddle and similar dances have become so unpopular that they have gone out of existence. The questionable dances aroused hundreds of local civic societies, many of which came to us for advice and assistance. They have gone straight at the problem and have been able to curb the evil which threatened. The fox-trot, waltz and the tango-fox-trot—which is a modified and simplified tango, performed at fox-trot tempo—will be the popular dances next year. Any good dancer with a sense of rhythm will be able to do the last after a few minutes of instruction."

Robert Clark Campbell, the "cotillon king," came down from Albany. He is also an ex-President of the association, and he spoke with assurance of the return of the cotillon, which he has conducted in this city, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and elsewhere.

"I have been studying New York's dancing places," he remarked, "and I was greatly surprised at the growing popularity of the waltz in the saloons and on the roof gardens. It is really a sign that the waltz is coming back nationally, for, as I noted, without a single many of the dancers were strangers to the city."

George W. Smith of Columbus, O., former Secretary of the association, said that a dancing "clean-up" was

available for the tango is too difficult for the layman. The waltz is coming back strongly, and there is also a slight tendency toward the old square dances.

Louis Kretlow, who started to teach dancing seventy years ago and is one of the three living charter members of the association and the only survivor who is actively engaged in dancing, likewise places his faith in the waltz.

"We had investigating committees in Chicago," he said, "to find out what was wrong with the dance and to correct it. As a result of their reports, I think that the waltz and the fox-trot will be the features this year."

Edna H. Passapoe of Newark introduced her "Argentine fox trot," a tango executed at modified fox-trot time, yesterday. Another prominent woman delegate was Mrs. J. H. Meyer, who has a full column of past executive titles and who will go back to Dallas with the unanimously decreed honor, "Dean of Women of the Convention."

F. W. Kehl, an "old-timer," has at-



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tended twenty-seven of the past thirty annual conventions of the association, and this year his two sons attended it. He has found that the folks in Madison, Wis., do not miss jazz music, but that they are appreciating more and more the waltz.

Other prominent delegates are: Vice Presidents A. V. Tuttle, Baltimore; Pearl M. Allen, Lafayette, Ind.; Secretary George F. Walters, Waltham, Mass.; Treasurer, Walter U. Soby, Hartford; Trustees, Mrs. Montie Beach, Houston, Tex.; Gus Zimmerman, Cleveland; Ann F. Sproule, Beaumont, Tex.; and ex-Presidents Oscar Duryea, New York; E. A. Prinz, St. Joseph, Mo.; and M. F. Conway, Hartford.

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